



**Michigan Osteopathic
Association**



June 12, 2007

House Commerce Committee public hearing on HB 4163

Dear Representative Meisner:

The osteopathic medical profession is built on a philosophy of prevention. That's why the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) supports House Bill 4163 to create safe and smokefree environments for all residents statewide. Currently, there are approximately 17,000 *preventable* smoke-related deaths in Michigan annually, 3,000 of which are from exposure to secondhand smoke. At minimum, those residents who have made the choice not to smoke should not be forced to endure the health risks of asthma, cardiovascular disease, cancer and death that exist in states such as ours that lack smokefree legislation.

In addition to the unnecessary and avoidable human toll, annual health care costs in the state directly caused by smoking have reached \$3.4 billion; Michigan's Medicaid program accounts for \$1 billion of these costs. As you and the Michigan Legislature begin work on the Fiscal Year 2008 budget, I'm sure you can see the value smokefree legislation could have in the state. And the numbers above do not even take into account the potential positive effects on Michigan's economy as other states have experienced after passing smokefree legislation including increased tourism dollars and job creation.

On behalf of the entire physician membership of the MOA, I implore you to support HB 4163. Help reduce the prevalence of fatal chronic diseases in Michigan. Help protect those nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke on the job. Help reduce the health care costs born by Michigan households, the health care community and the government that are a direct product of unclean air. Smokefree legislation makes sense for Michigan's physical and fiscal health.

Sincerely,

Susan Sevensma, D.O.
President

cc: Michigan House Commerce Committee Members

SS/jh